

3. Antelope Valley SEA: A, B, C, D,			
Criteria Letter	Criteria Description	Criteria Met	Reason SEA meets Criteria
A	The habitat of core populations of endangered or threatened plant or animal species.	Yes	The SEA encompasses: the only known Antelope Valley population of the federally endangered southwestern arroyo toad; much of the Los Angeles County ranges of the federally threatened California desert tortoise and the state threatened Mohave ground squirrel.
B	On a regional basis, biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant or animal species that are either unique or are restricted in distribution.	Yes	The mesquite bosque, sand sheet, rocky butte, desert riparian woodland, and alluvial fan sage scrub habitats are all unique and regionally restricted biotic communities encompassed by the proposed SEA. Desert species not, or rarely, found elsewhere in the County, such as verdin, black-throated sparrow, Mojave rattlesnake, desert banded gecko, Leech's prionid borer, and mesquite borer, occur within these habitats. Additionally, the ponds and other riparian and wetland systems in the northern portion of the SEA support numerous water birds and raptors not resident elsewhere in the County.
C	Within Los Angeles County, biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant or animal species that are either unique or are restricted in distribution.	Yes	The desert alluvial fan sage scrub, Joshua tree woodland, desert riparian woodland, mesquite bosque, alkali meadow/marsh, desert freshwater marsh, playa lake and seasonal pool habitats are located within, are unique to, or best represented within, the SEA.
D	Habitat that at some point in the life cycle of a species or group of species, serves as concentrated breeding, feeding, resting, migrating grounds and is limited in availability either regionally or in Los Angeles County.	Yes	The freshwater habitats within and around Rosamond, Buckhorn and Rogers dry lake basins have large concentrations of migratory and resident waterfowl and birds of prey, providing them with essential seasonal and permanent resources. The rocky desert buttes are unique roosting, sheltering, perching and nesting sites for birds of prey.
E	Biotic resources that are of scientific interest because they are either an extreme in physical/geographical limitations, or represent unusual	No	Although the SEA does not contain biotic resource that are clearly an extreme in physical/geographical limitations, or represent unusual variation in a

	variation in a population or community.		population or community, it is of scientific interest due to the large undeveloped desert communities and the transition zones between them.
F	Areas that would provide for the preservation of relatively undisturbed examples of the original natural biotic communities in Los Angeles County.	Yes	The proposed Antelope Valley SEA encompasses some of the most biotically intact acreage of joshua tree woodland, desert riparian woodland, and desert alluvial fan sage scrub remaining in the County.